

country, including the countries of Eastern Europe, and including the Soviet Union.

So this is our task.

The world of tomorrow—peaceful, healthy, beautiful, educated—all this awaits us if only we, led by bankers, stir ourselves to move forward toward it.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11 a.m. at the Sheraton Park Hotel in Washington. In his opening words he referred to Yilma Deressa, Minister of Finance of Ethiopia and chairman of the 19th annual meeting of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, George D. Woods, President of the World Bank, Pierre-Paul Schweitzer, Managing Director and Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors, International Monetary Fund, and Henry H. Fowler, Secretary of the Treasury.

542 Statement by the President Upon Signing War Orphans' Educational Assistance Allowances. *October 1, 1965*

I HAVE SIGNED a bill which will provide an increase in the rates of war orphans' educational assistance allowances to some 20,000 deserving sons and daughters of veterans who lost their lives, or were totally and permanently disabled, defending our freedom around the world. This bill will also liberalize the eligibility requirements so as to provide benefits for all children whose veteran-parent was killed, or permanently and totally disabled, as a result of service after the end of the Korean conflict.

This is the first rate increase afforded under the War Orphans' Educational As-

sistance Act since it was enacted in 1956. This amendment will increase the monthly allowance payable to those who are presently pursuing education under the program, or who will do so later, from \$110 to \$130 per month for full-time educational training.

It is fair and right that this rate adjustment, and liberalized eligibility criteria, should be provided. Our obligation to these children is clear. I am proud to sign this bill into law.

NOTE: As enacted, the bill (H.R. 205) is Public Law 89-222 (79 Stat. 896). It was approved on September 30, 1965.

543 Remarks at the Signing of the Water Quality Act of 1965. *October 2, 1965*

Members of the Cabinet and Members of Congress, ladies and gentlemen:

Happy birthday, Mr. Hayden. I sent you a little note last night and I had intended to come to see you today, but since you are here, I hope you will stay over and just visit with me a little bit after the ceremony.

This moment marks a very proud beginning for the United States of America. Today, we proclaim our refusal to be strangled by the wastes of civilization. Today, we begin to be masters of our environment.

But we must act, and act swiftly. The hour is late, the damage is large.

The clear, fresh waters that were our national heritage have become dumping grounds for garbage and filth. They poison our fish; they breed disease; they despoil our landscapes.

No one has a right to use America's rivers and America's waterways that belong to all the people as a sewer. The banks of a river may belong to one man or even one industry or one State, but the waters which

flow between those banks should belong to all the people.

There is no excuse for a river flowing red with blood from slaughterhouses. There is no excuse for papermills pouring tons of sulphuric acid into the lakes and the streams of the people of this country. There is no excuse—and we should call a spade a spade—for chemical companies and oil refineries using our major rivers as pipelines for toxic wastes. There is no excuse for communities to use other people's rivers as a dump for their raw sewage.

This sort of carelessness and selfishness simply ought to be stopped; and more, it just must be reversed. And we are going to reverse it.

We are going to begin right here in Washington with the Potomac River. Two hundred years ago George Washington used to stand on his lawn down here at Mount Vernon and look on a river that was clean and sweet and pure. In our own century President Theodore Roosevelt used to go swimming in the Potomac. But today the Potomac is a river of decaying sewage and rotten algae. Today all the swimmers are gone; they have been driven from its banks.

Well, with the signing of the Water Quality Act of 1965 this morning, I pledge you that we are going to reopen the Potomac for swimming by 1975. And within the next 25 years, we are going to repeat this

effort in lakes and streams and other rivers across this country.

I believe that with your help and your continued cooperation, water pollution is doomed in this century.

This bill that you have passed, that will become law as a result of a responsive Congress, will not completely assure us of absolute success. Additional, bolder legislation will be needed in the years ahead. But we have begun. And we have begun in the best American tradition—with a program of joint Federal, State, and local action.

The ultimate victory of reclaiming this portion of our national heritage really rests in the hands of all the people of America, not just the Government here in Washington. But much of the money, some of the imagination, much of the effort must be generated at the local level. And then, and really only then, will this blueprint for victory become victory in fact.

Thank you for coming this morning.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:04 a.m. in the East Room at the White House before a group composed of United States Senators, Representatives, and members of the Cabinet. At the beginning of his remarks he referred to Senator Carl Hayden of Arizona, President of the Senate pro tempore, who was celebrating his 88th birthday.

As enacted, the Water Quality Act of 1965 is Public Law 89-234 (79 Stat. 903).

On November 10, 1965, the President signed Proclamation 3688 "Water Conservation Month" (1 Weekly Comp. Pres. Docs., p. 489; 30 F.R. 14349; 3 CFR, 1965 Supp., p. 75).

544 Letter Authorizing the Secretary, HEW, To Undertake a Joint United States-Japan Medical Research Program. *October 2, 1965*

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Pursuant to the authority vested in the President by section 5(f) of the International Health Research Act of 1960 (PL 86-610), you are authorized to undertake a joint United States-Japan medical research pro-

gram. This program, designed to pool the knowledge and resources of the two countries in fighting major diseases affecting the people of Asia, results from the discussions which I had with Prime Minister Sato in January. It is known as the United States-